

# Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women

Representing 14 Counties of  
Federated Republican Women

January 2020 Issue

## President's message

Welcome 2020! And what a busy and important year it will be. The Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women was founded in 1962, so this is our 58th anniversary. I am honored and looking forward to serving with you as President of GHCFRW!



We've had a great start to the new year with GHCFRW's PowerUp 2020 Biennial Fundraiser luncheon on January 17th. It was a great success as we gathered at the beautiful George Theater. Immediate Past President, **Cindy Siegel**, gave her farewell address, Chaplain **Ann Lee** lead us in prayer, GOTV Chair **Rachel Redus** lead us in the pledges, **Shiva Baradaran** sang the National Anthem, **Jacquie Baly** served as emcee, **Senator Paul Bettencourt** conducted the live auction and **Sean Cowin** provided musical entertainment.

Our keynote speaker, **Catherine Engelbrecht**, founder of True-the-Vote, shared her incredible journey. **Steve Munisteri** updated us on current issues, and, as the first recipient of GHCFRW's Patriot Award in 2018, he presented the 2020 Patriot Award to **Catherine Engelbrecht**. We concluded the luncheon with the crowd singing "God Bless America"! Hundreds of hours and months of planning came together with an uplifting message to honor Catherine and inspire us to "PowerUp" for this year's elections.

Many thanks to our sponsors, advertisers, and auction donors for their generosity. Congrats to our event Chair, **Emely McHattie**, and the entire committee for a job well done: **Candice Faure-Anderson**, **Edith Gibson**, **Michelle Hutson**, **Jennifer Knesek**, **Dana Khan**, **Pat Lunn**, **Dr. Dana Myers**, **Francine Pares**, **Tori Raphael**, **Cindy Siegel**, **SJ Swanson**, **Barbara Tague**, and **Ceci Twachtman**. Some photos from the event are included in this newsletter, but more will be posted soon on our GHCFRW Facebook page and website. Meredith Flaherty Photography provided us with a link to access the photos she took at the event: <https://mflahertyphoto.shootproof.com/GHFW>.

Our next event will be **Nuts N' Bolts** on February 11th! We will honor the 2020 Club Presidents and hear from wonderful speakers in your choice of break-out sessions. Our Republican National Committeewoman from Texas, **Toni Anne Dashiell**, will be the keynote speaker at lunch. We've been able to keep the price down to \$20 [or \$22 by credit card] due to **Commissioner Jack Cagle's** generosity in underwriting a portion of the catering cost. Be sure to thank him! Please encourage your club members to attend, and invite your like-minded friends who want to learn more about our Federated Republican Womens clubs. More details will be available on our website at [www.ghcfrwpac.org](http://www.ghcfrwpac.org). Please send in your 2020 GHCFRW membership renewals as soon as possible so we can update our records and be sure every club president is included in the program.

I would like to take a moment to thank our 2018-2019 Board members and Immediate Past President, **Cindy Siegel**, for their hard work and dedication. What a great example of leadership you've all been! Your 2020-2021 GHCFRW Board is looking forward to serving with all of you! I am humbled to be a part of it.

You can reach me at [ghc2020prez@aol.com](mailto:ghc2020prez@aol.com) with any questions or concerns. Let's get ready to **PowerUp** to WIN in 2020 and beyond! We'll see you on Tuesday, February 11th at Nuts N' Bolts!

Warm Regards,  
Sophia Mafrige, GHCFRW President



## Thank You!

By Cindy Siegel, Immediate Past President Greater Houston Council of  
Federated Republican Women  
January 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

*I had dinner the other night with my two daughters, who are in town for the holiday. They were discussing their New Year's resolutions and they asked me what mine are in 2020. I said, "WIN!"*

*It is hard to believe that 2020 is here and the primary is less than two months away! We are starting down the road towards the presidential election and the next ten months are going to fly by.*

*We are at a tipping point in our country and it is going to take every Republican to GOTV in order to support President Trump; and nowhere is that more important than here in the Greater Houston area and Texas!*

*Thank each of you who have spent countless hours already in past elections working hard to GOTV to elect Republicans and your support of Republican Women's Clubs. Thank you for supporting Greater Houston Council with your presence and financial support for our Luncheon this year. Proceeds from this event will help Greater Houston Council with our GOTV efforts for 2020.*

*As the outgoing president of GHCFRW, I ask each of you to add to your New Year's Resolutions from our standard "Keep Texas Red!" to simply, "WIN!"*

*God Bless President Trump, our Country and may God continue to bless Texas!*

Warm Regards-

Cindy Siegel, Immediate Past President, GHCFRW

## REMINDER!

This is just a friendly reminder, if you haven't sent in your dues and information to GHC for 2020, please do so. So far this year I have only received dues from 12 clubs. The holidays are over, and we are getting back into the swing of things, so please get those dues in!

Forms are on the website, or email **Kittie Rice** at [krice@setexasnapa.com](mailto:krice@setexasnapa.com), and I will send it to you.

## Thank You!

Special thanks to Tomball RW and Magic Circle RW for providing the delicious snacks for the November meeting.

Hospitality also wishes to express their thanks to all the following clubs that volunteered to help with hospitality in 2019: Spindletop RW, Memorial West RW, San Jacinto RW, Northwest Forest RW, Bay Area RW, Kingwood RW, Lake Conroe Area RW, Clear Creek RW, Magic Circle RW, Montgomery County RW, RW's Club of Katy, Village RW and Tomball RW. The treats they provided added to the enjoyment of the programs presented by GHC.

Our best wishes and thanks and gratitude to **Givvie Searcy** for her many years of service as co-chair of Hospitality. She was always there with a smile ready to help and to fulfill her duties.

As we enter another year, we are looking for clubs to help with hospitality for this year. If your club would like to help with hospitality in 2020, please contact **Edie Holland** at [edie-holland@comcast.net](mailto:edie-holland@comcast.net) or our new co-chair, **Dana Khan**, at [danak007@gmail.com](mailto:danak007@gmail.com). We wish all the clubs a very successful year in 2020.



**Greater Houston Council Presents  
Nuts 'N' Bolts  
February 11, 2020**



**"HELP! I am my club's President, Treasurer, Membership Chair, etc. etc.....".** GHC and TFRW are here to help. Join us for a day of workshops and speakers. The workshops will help you learn more about how to do your job to make your clubs stronger and more effective.

**Club presidents will be recognized.**

**When: February 11, 2020 Check-in and Meet & Greet 9 am  
Speakers and Workshops 9:30-1:30**

**Where: Trini Mendenhall Community Center  
1414 Wirt Road, Houston 77055**

**Cost: \$20/person to cover lunch  
\$22/person if paying by credit card**

**Pre registration deadline is February 5<sup>th</sup>. For registration form or to register online go to: [www.ghcfrwpac.org](http://www.ghcfrwpac.org)**

**Questions? Contact Sophia Mafrige -ghc2020prez@aol.com**

Political advertising paid for by GHCFRW. Micheline Hutson, Treasurer, 11007 Wortham Blvd., Houston, TX 77065. Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporate Contributions are not permitted. This is not an endorsement of GHCFRW, its President, or its Campaign Activities Chair, only candidate information to help you make an informed decision and get involved with the candidate of your choice.



### NUTS N' BOLTS REGISTRATION FORM

The Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women, in conjunction with the Texas Federation of Republican Women, will be holding their Nuts N' Bolts training workshop and recognition of Club Presidents on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center at 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, TX 77055. Check in begins at 9:00 AM and the program begins at 9:30 AM. There will be snacks and coffee to start your day and lunch is included.

### MEET TFRW PRESIDENT GLYNIS CHESTER

### DYNAMIC LUNCH TIME SPEAKER!

**Toni Anne Dashiell, RNC National Committeewoman for Texas**

There will be three workshops sessions from which to choose. Please indicate your preference of workshops to attend.

Register online at [www.ghcfrwpac.org](http://www.ghcfrwpac.org). Cost is \$20 by check or \$22 by credit card.

Pre-registration deadline is Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

Make checks payable to Greater Houston Council and mail your registration form and payment to Micheline Hutson 11007 Wortham Blvd, TX 77065

**Name** (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Club** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** (required by TEC) \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshops—check one in each session

#### SESSION 1 (morning session)

- ☐ Treasurer and her duties (Former TFRW Treasurer, Cynthia England)
- ☐ The President and her Role (TFRW President Glynis Chester)
- ☐ Communication and Social Media (Greater Houston Council Board Member, Emely McHattie and Francine Pares)

#### SESSION 2 (morning session)

- ☐ Programs (TFRW Vice President Programs Alice Melancon)
- ☐ Membership (Former TFRW 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Julie Faubel)
- ☐ Communication and Social Media (Greater Houston Council Board Member, Emely McHattie and Francine Pares)

#### SESSION 3 (afternoon session)

- ☐ Awards (TFRW Awards Chair Janis Holt)
- ☐ Campaign Activities (TFRW Past President, Theresa Kosmoski)
- ☐ Treasurer and her duties (Former TFRW Treasurer, Cynthia England)

Political advertising paid for by GHCFRW. Micheline Hutson, Treasurer, 11007 Wortham Blvd., Houston, TX 77065. Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporate Contributions are not permitted. This is not an endorsement of GHCFRW, its President, or its Campaign Activities Chair, only candidate information to help you make an informed decision and get involved with the candidate of your choice.

# Greater Houston Council FRW

## Outgoing and Incoming Board Meeting & Christmas Luncheon

### Meet your 2020-2021 Board of Directors!

**Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Board of Directors for Greater Houston Council of Federated Republican Women! The Board of Directors was sworn in by Dr. Dana Meyers, Vice Chairman of the Harris County Republican Party and President of Magic Circle RW, at the Board Christmas Luncheon.**





**GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL OF FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
**2020/2021 Board of Directors**

President	Sophia Mafrige, Magic Circle RW
1st VP Programs	Gwen Withrow, Spindletop RW
2nd VP Membership	Kittie Rice, Spindletop RW
3rd VP Special Events	Dr. Milinda Morris, Central Houston RW
4th VP Finance	Cheryl Dalton, Village RW
Recording Secretary	Cindy Wingo, RW of Katy
Corresponding Secretary	Jennifer Knesek, Magic Circle RW
Treasurer/PAC Treasurer	Micheline Hutson, CyFair RW
Immediate Past President	Hon. Cindy Siegel, Magic Circle RW

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN (VOTING)**

Campaign Activities	Gayla Baker, Brazosport RW
County Chair Liaison	Emely McHattie, Village RW
Legislative	SJ Swanson, Village RW
Newsletter	Tina Gibson, Fort Bend RW
Public Relations	Carmen Crenshaw, Magic Circle RW
Club Liaison-Northern Counties	Pearl Maggio, Montgomery County RW
Club Liaison-Southern Counties	Hon. Angelina Gooden, San Jacinto RW

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING)**

Hospitality	Edie Holland, Chair Bay Area RW and Dana Khan, Co-Chair NW Forest RW
Historian	Toni Lawrence, Cy Fair RW

**PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES EX-OFFICIO (NON-VOTING)**

Advisor to President	Jessica Colon, Texas Tea Paarty RW
Chaplain	Ann Lee, Memorial West RW
Bylaws and Protocol	Barbara Tague, Tomball RW
TFRW/NFRW Liaison	Theresa Kosmoski, Village RW
GOTV	Rachel Redus, Tri-County RW
Website	Cindy Bennett Smith, Kingwood RW
Social Media	Alice Melancon, Montgomery County RW
Parliamentarian	Theresa Kosmoski, Village RW





A heartfelt thank you to friends and elected officials for their support of our **POWER UP 2020** Fundraiser!

List at time of program printing

**Underwriter**

Commissioner Steve Radack, Harris County Precinct 3

**Sponsors**

**George Washington**

Honorable Cindy Siegel

**President**

Dr. Milinda Morris

**Champion**

Honorable Tom Ramsey

**Patriot**

Honorable Senator Joan Huffman

Emely McHattie

Kathaleen Wall

**Auction Donors**

Honorable James Murphy, PowerUp 2020 luncheon Committee,  
Honorable Paul and Susan Bettencourt, and Honorable Dan Crenshaw.

**Thank you!**

Emcee Jacquie Baly, Keynote Speaker and 2020 Patriot Award Recipient Catherine Engelbrecht, Speaker and past Patriot Award recipient Honorable Steve Munisteri, and Auctioneer Honorable Paul Bettencourt

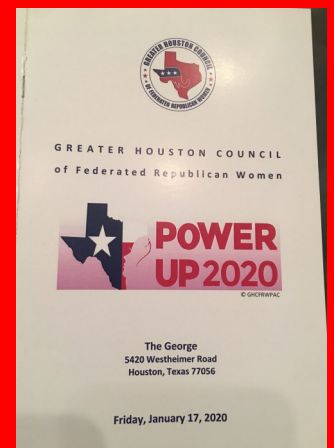
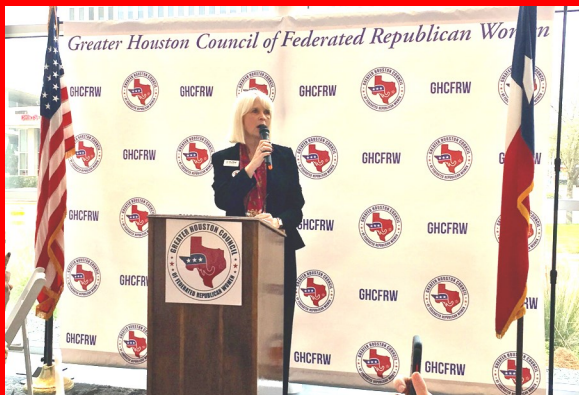
**Friends**

Nick Adams, Terry Adams, Honorable Donna Baborich, Gayla Baker, Patricia Barrett, Penny Butler, Ramsey Elder, Kaye Goolsby, Honorable Theresa Kosmoski, Lillie Lopez, Sophia Mafrige, Victoria Mafrige, Melissa Esparza Matthis, Thelma McDaniel, Dr. Dana Myers, Keith Nielsen, Mary Sage, Honorable Susan Sample, San Jacinto RW, Dr. Jon Spiers, Honorable Brenda Stardig, Honorable Larry Taylor

**In Kind Donations**

Cordua Catering by Churrasco's, Sean Cowin, Cy-Fair RW, Micheline Hutson, Honorable Cheryl Johnson, Dana Khan, Jennifer Knesek, Honorable James Murphy, Chad Norvell, Power Up 2020 Planning Committee, James Pressler, Honorable Cindy Siegel, Simply Beautiful Flowers and Events, Sweetland Cakery Bakery, Barbara Tague, Texans for Abbott, Texans for Cornyn, Tony K's, Ceci Twatchman, Honorable Allen West

# Highlights From the Greater Houston Council POWER UP 2020 Fundraiser at the George in Houston January 17, 2020





## GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL DECEMBER 2019 CLUB EVENTS



**Magic Circle RW** Celebrating the season at their Officer installation with State Representative Jim Murphy and membership drive with State Rep. Sarah Davis and Congressman John Culberson. Pictured, Past President Mary Schneider, 2020-2021 President Dr. Dana Myers, 2020-2021 GHC President Sophia Mafrige and GHC Past President Cindy Siegel at the Donald Trump Jr. book signing in the Galleria.

**Fort Bend RW** Christmas Egg Nog and Officer Installation Luncheon with Lt. Col. Allen West conducting the officer installation ceremony. Pictured with Lt. Col. West, President Marilyn Davis, Grayle James, Kathy Luckenbach, Wendi Lojo, Carol Scott and Lori Townsend, and Woman of the Year Award recipient Verna Quiroga.



## More Greater Houston Council Club Events

### NEW SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS



The Greater Houston Council will establish an ongoing project called "Socks for the Homeless in Honor of President George H. W. Bush", which was started by GHC Chaplain Ann Lee. Please bring new packaged socks of all kinds and sizes to the February 11, 2020 Nuts and Bolts Event to restart this project in "41's" honor. These socks will be divided up that day among club representatives from the fourteen counties Greater Houston Council serves for distribution to worthy local charities. We will continue this project at every program meeting.

***Start a new sock drive from your club!***



### Village Republican Women

**February 26, 2020**

**Candidate Forum for RPT Chair - James Dickey & LTC Allen West**

Moderated by Jacquie Baly, TV political commentator

Houston Racquet Club; 10709 Memorial Drive

Check-in begins at 11:00 am; lunch/program begins at 11:30 am

Cost: \$30 cash or may pay online with a credit card (service charge applies)  
at [www.villagerepublicanwomen.org](http://www.villagerepublicanwomen.org) beginning early February



**Montgomery County Republican Women at their Board of Directors Christmas Party**



## More Greater Houston Council Club Events

### Fort Bend Republican Women's Club PAC

**Cordially Invite You to Attend a Fort Bend Republican Women Lite Bite Networking Night**

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020**

**5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Come join other Fort Bend Republican Women in meeting Republican candidates running in the March Primary and November 2020!

Let's work together for Victory in 2020!

We believe Fort Bend Republican Women are the Heart of Fort Bend County.

We value the constitution and the founding principles of our country, and want to preserve our strong economy, strengthen border security and make sure our elected officials support the family values that have made our country strong.

Our club educates, serves and supports our Fort Bend County community.

Our goal is to elect Republicans to office on all levels of government.

Meeting location:

130 Industrial Blvd. (Atrium)

Sugar Land, TX 77478

Lite Bites and Wine will be served. Bring a friend!

Please RSVP to Kim Icenhower at [kim@icenhower.com](mailto:kim@icenhower.com)  
or text Kim at 713-504-4378 by Friday, February 14.

Dave Martin



Houston Mayor Pro Tem

#### Hosted by The Bay Area Republican Women

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
Bay Oaks Country Club  
14545 Bay Oaks Blvd. Houston, TX 77059

Breakfast & Registration Begins: 7:30 AM

Meeting Begins: 8:00 AM

Breakfast Cost \$20 Payable at the Door

BARW Members and Guest Must RSVP by emailing [barw.rsvp@gmail.com](mailto:barw.rsvp@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.





**GREATER HOUSTON COUNCIL OF FEDERATED REPUBLICAN WOMEN**  
**TRINI MENDENHALL COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

President Cindy Siegel called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Emely McHattie gave the invocation and led the pledges to the American and Texas flags. An introduction of elected officials followed. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Recording Secretary Pearl Maggio called the roll of member clubs; there was a quorum. Treasurer Pat Lunn reported a balance of \$13,249.13 in GHC's banking account.

OLD BUSINESS: Pearl Maggio, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the recommended slate of officers for the 2020-2021 term. The following slate was approved by the membership:

President Sophia Mafrige (Magic Circle RW)	Treasurer Micheline Hutson (CyFair RW)
2nd VP/Membership Kittie Rice (Spindletop RW)	Recording Secretary Cindy Wingo (Katy RW)
3rd VP/Special Event Dr. Milinda Morris (Central Houston RW)	Corresponding Secretary Jennifer Knesek (Magic Circle RW)
4th VP/Finance Cheryl Dalton (Village RW)	Past President Cindy Siegel (Magic Circle RW)

President Elect Sophia Mafrige introduced the following board members for the next year:

**Standing Committees Chairs**

Bylaws/ Protocol Barbara Tague [Tomball RW]	Legislation SJ Swanson [Village RW]
Campaign Activities Gayla Baker [Brazosport RW]	Newsletter Tina Gibson [Ft. Bend RW]
Liaison to County Chairs Emely McHattie [Village RW]	Public Relations Carmen Crenshaw [Magic Circle RW]

**Special Committee Chairs**

**Club Liaisons**

Northern Counties Pearl Maggio [Montgomery County RW]	Southern Counties Hon. Angelina Gooden [San Jacinto RW]
Historian Hon. Toni Lawrence [CyFair RW]	Hospitality Edie Holland [Bay Area RW] / Dana Khan (NW Forest RW)

**President Appointees**

Advisor to President Jessica Colon [Texas Tea Party RW]	Website Cindy Bennett Smith [Kingwood RW]
Chaplain Ann Lee [Memorial West RW]	Social Media Alice Melancon [Montgomery County RW]
GOTV Rachel Redus [Tri-County RW]	Parliamentarian Theresa Kosmoski [Village RW]
TFRW Liaison Theresa Kosmoski [Village RW]	

**Honorary Ex-Officio**

TFRW President Glynis Chester	TFRW Past President Karen Newton
-------------------------------	----------------------------------

SPECIAL EVENT: Emely McHattie reported on the January 17, 2020 luncheon event. It will be held at the George Theater from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Price for early registration is \$80.00. Late registration will be \$100.00. More information will be forthcoming.

PROGRAM: VP/Programs Alice Melancon introduced Shanna Floyd, a representative of the Fisher House in Houston. Ms. Floyd spoke about the services provided for families of patients receiving medical care at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. Since inception nationally, the program has saved military and veterans' families millions in out of pocket costs for lodging and transportation. Members present donated gift cards to the Fisher House.

ADJOURNMENT: For the closing prayer, Marine Veteran Andy Valdez presented information and blew the biblical Shofar instrument.

There was no further business and the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pearl Maggio  
Recording Secretary

**Legislative Report**  
**Republican Party of Texas**  
**Propositions on the March 3rd Primary Ballot**



The following propositions on the primary election ballot in March are issues that Texas Republicans are concerned about going in to the next legislative session. These issues may be important to you as well. By voting Yes or No, you can help send a message to your legislators in the 2021 Legislative Session. These are merely legislative priorities. They are not laws.

1. Texas should not restrict or prohibit prayer in public schools.
2. Texas should reject restrictions on the right to keep and bear arms.
3. Texas should ban the practice of taxpayer-funded lobbying, which allows your tax dollars to be spent on lobbyists who work against the taxpayer.
4. Texas should support the construction of a physical barrier and use existing defense-grade surveillance equipment along the entire southern border of Texas.
5. Texas parents or legal guardians of public school children under the age of 18 should be the sole decision makers for all their children's healthcare decisions including, but not limited to, psychological assessment and treatment, contraception, and sex education.
6. Texas should ban chemical castration, puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and genital mutilation surgery on all minor children for transition purposes, given that Texas children as young as three (3) are being transitioned from their biological sex to the opposite sex.
7. Texans should protect and preserve all historical monuments, artifacts, and buildings, such as the Alamo Cenotaph and our beloved Alamo, and should oppose any reimagining of the Alamo site.
8. Texas election officials should heed the directives of the Office of the Governor to purge illegal voters from the voter rolls and verify that each new registered voter is a U.S. Citizen.
9. Bail in Texas should be based only on a person's danger to society and risk of flight, not that person's ability to pay.
10. Texas should limit our state legislators' terms to 12 years.

---

The year and a half in between legislative sessions is called the "interim" period. During the interim period, the House and Senate committees hold hearings to study specific issues, or "charges" that are assigned to them by the Speaker and Lt. Governor.

This year's interim charges include important items such as health care reform, reducing the tax burden, school choice, Second Amendment rights, and religious freedoms. Many of the charges relate to planks or priorities from the RPT platform from the 2018 State convention.

Although bills cannot be passed since we're not within an actual legislative session, these interim hearings are the Legislature's way of reaching out to you for your opinion on important issues. By studying these issues now, our Senators and Representatives can be prepared to pass bills in 2021 that address the specifics you'll bring to their attention.



## Greater Houston Council Calendar of Events

All General and Executive Committee Meetings at  
Trini Mendenhall Community Center  
1414 Wirt Rd. Houston 77055

**General Meetings 9:00 am—noon**

**February 11—Nuts 'N Bolts**

March 17

May 5

September 15

November 17

**Executive Committee Meetings 10:00 am**

January 21

April 21

June 16

August 18

October 13

## VICTORY 2020 Dates to Remember

- ☆ January 21-24 Early Voting for House District Run-Off Elections
- ☆ January 28—House District Run-Off Elections
- ☆ February 3—Last Day to Register to Vote in March Primary
- ☆ February 11—Greater Houston Council RW Nuts 'N Bolts Leadership Seminar 9am – 2 pm 1414 Wirt Rd Houston 77055
- ☆ February 12—Last day to apply for Ballot by Mail
- ☆ February 18—Early Voting Begins
- ☆ February 28—Last Day of Early Voting
- ☆ March 2—Texas Independence Day
- ☆ March 3—Primary Election
- ☆ March 21—Senate District Conventions
- ☆ May 14-16—Republican Party of Texas State Convention at George R. Brown Convention Center Houston
- ☆ November 3—Election Day



Political advertising paid by GHCFRW, Micheline Hutson Treasurer, 11007 Wortham Blvd., Houston, TX 77065 Contributions are not federal tax deductible as charitable contributions. Corporation contributions are not permitted.